

curriculum

Curriculum Newsletter

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EDUCATION

Curriculum Newsletter

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Principals and Department Heads:

Please circulate this newsletter to teachers who may find it of interest.

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Directory - Department of Education Offices

A. Regional

1. Grande Prairie Region

5th Floor, Nordic Court, 10014 - 99 Street, Grande Prairie T8V 3N4
Telephone: 532 - 0155

2. Edmonton Region

500 Devonian Building, 11160 - Jasper Avenue, Edmonton T5K 0L1
Telephone: 427 - 2952

3. Red Deer Region

202 Balmoral Building, Box 5002, Red Deer T4N 1X9
Telephone: 346 - 3351

4. Calgary Region

Room 1200, Rocky Mountain Plaza, Macleod Trail, S. E., Calgary T2G 4T8
Telephone: 261 - 5026

5. Lethbridge Region

236 Administration Building, Lethbridge Community College, Lethbridge
T1K 1L6
Telephone: 328 - 1157

B. Central (Edmonton)

1. Audio-Visual Services Branch

Devonian Building, 11160 - Jasper Avenue T5K 0L1
Telephone: 427 - 2942

2. Student Evaluation and Data Processing Services Branch

Devonian Building, 11160 - Jasper Avenue T5K 0L1
Telephone: 427 - 5739

3. Curriculum Branch

Executive Building, 10105 - 109 Street T5J 2V2
Telephone: 427 - 2984

4. Field Services Branch

Executive Building, 10105 - 109 Street T5J 2V2
Telephone: 427 - 2988

For other numbers please consult your telephone directory or contact your telephone operator.

Canadian Content

«» Canadian Resources 1975

A catalogue of resource materials in language arts and social studies called Canadian Resources 1975 has been mailed to all schools in the province. This catalogue is designed to assist teachers and librarians in spending wisely the \$15.00 per pupil grant announced by the Minister of Education in January, 1975. All materials listed in the catalogue have been evaluated by teachers and found to be appropriate for use in some aspect of the present programs in language arts and social studies.

«» Great Canadian Content Machine

A selective display of Canadian resource materials in language arts and social studies called The Great Canadian Content Machine is touring the province during 1975 and early 1976. Materials on display have been chosen from those evaluated and listed in Canadian Resources 1975.

The tentative schedule for the mobile display which will be part of the Candev Caravan is as follows:

June 1975

Calgary

July and August 1975

T. B. A.

September 1975

Crooked Creek, Grande Prairie, Wembley, Beaverlodge, Hythe, Sexsmith, Wanham

October 1975

Spirit River, Fairview, Hines Creek, Grimshaw, Manning, Dixonville, Peace River, Nampa, McLennan, Eaglesham

November 1975

Fahler, Girouxville, Guy, Valleyview, Fox Creek, Whitecourt, Mayerthorpe, Sangudo, Onoway, Spruce Grove

December 1975

Drayton Valley, Sylvan Lake, Condor, Rocky Mountain House,
Caroline, Spruceview

January 1976

Strathmore, Standard, Hussar, Gleichen, Bassano, Brooks, Tilley,
Suffield, Redcliff

February 1976

Irvine, Medicine Hat, Foremost

March 1976

Bow Island, Burdett, Grassy Lake, Taber, Vauxhall

(See also the article on page 5, "Canadian Content - Social Studies".)

Language Arts & Fine Arts

«» Elementary Language Arts

Two ad hoc curriculum committees are busy extending the interim (1973) language arts program. Particular attention is being paid to integrating language, reading, spelling and handwriting. More specific assistance in developing units, in evaluating and in developing communication skills, as well as other areas, will be included in the new curriculum guide.

It is expected that new textual materials and some aspects of the program will be piloted commencing in September, 1976.

«» Junior High Language Arts

The outline of a new integrated language arts program for junior high schools has been developed by the Junior High Language Arts Ad Hoc Committee. Textual materials have been identified and given preliminary evaluation. Both program and support materials will be piloted in selected classrooms in Alberta starting September, 1975. It is expected that the completed program (including the curriculum guide) will be ready for teachers to start implementing in September, 1976. As is the case with all programs developed by the Curriculum Branch, schools have three years in which to introduce the program completely.

«» Senior High Language Arts

Initial activities are underway in reviewing the total senior high language arts program. An updating of support materials and some minor modification of the program are changes foreseen at this time. The review may identify other necessary changes.

«» Secondary Fine Arts

The Secondary Fine Arts Curriculum Committee has completed a review of the secondary programs in art, music and drama. General support has been given to the objectives and philosophy of each program. Revisions to each program guide will be designed to provide more specific suggestions to teachers, particularly those teachers with limited training in fine arts. Completion dates for these tasks will be announced in a later edition of this newsletter.

Social Studies and Social Sciences

«» Canadian Content - Social Studies

The press and the media and members of the general public are currently showing much interest in Canadian content in the curriculum. The Department of Education has been encouraging publishers and producers for some time to increase the supply of Canadian materials, both print and non-print. A few have responded in a very positive way, making new products with a definitely Canadian focus available within the past several years.

A number of these materials have been identified in the recently distributed resource lists (Resource Materials for Elementary Social Studies and Resource Materials for Secondary Social Studies, available from the Printing and Stationery Branch, Department of Education.)

Many Canadian resources will also be displayed in the Great Canadian Content Machine, which begins its tour in June, 1975. (For details, see page 2 .)

It may be timely to draw attention to specific "criteria for selecting learning opportunities" for Alberta social studies programs, as they appear in the handbooks, Responding to Change, (see page 11) and Experiences in Decision Making, (see page 18):

- #1 (d) Does the experience fit as part of a sequence which will lead to a reasoned pride in Canada, tempered with a world view and an understanding of significant social problems?
- #2 Is the experience relevant to the needs and interests of students?

«» Defeathering the Indian - by Emma LaRoque

"A handbook with a difference" -- that description is appropriate to Defeathering the Indian. This newly released publication will be of interest to most teachers. Its message is applicable to many cultures, not only to that of the Indian. Reactions and comments from readers of Defeathering the Indian will be welcomed.

«» Social Studies Evaluation Project is Underway

Evaluation is recognized as an important aspect of curriculum development and implementation. Within that frame of reference, the research firm, L. W. Downey Research Associates, is conducting a study of the Alberta Social Studies curriculum. Questionnaire data has been obtained from a random sample of respondents. The study includes an assessment of social studies materials and various documents produced, and/or in use, in provincial schools. A

number of "sample studies" of social studies programs are being conducted by means of on-site visits to schools in selected locations. The evaluation report is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1975.

«» Social Sciences 10 - 20 - 30 Modular Units

Social Sciences 10 - 20 - 30 modular units in Consumer Economics and World History will be available for piloting during the 1975-76 school term. Schools interested in participating in the pilot program should contact Dr. H. G. Sherk at the Curriculum Branch, Department of Education.

«» Experiences in Decision Making Replacement Sheets, 1974

In November, 1974 some revisions were made prior to reprinting the elementary social studies handbook, Experiences in Decision Making, particularly in the Preface and in Chapter 1. The replacement sheets which provide these revisions (6 pages) are available from the Printing & Stationery Branch.

«» Romance of Canadian History

The School Book Branch still has on hand 156 copies of each of the first two volumes of The Romance of Canadian History. These books are for sale at the list prices of \$23.90 for Volume 1 and \$25.75 for Volume 2, and these prices are subject to the usual 15% School Book Branch discount.

Metric Education

It doesn't appear likely that we can manage another issue of the SI Newsletter this spring, but you can expect one early next fall.

In the meantime you will be receiving -- either in June or September, depending on the method of distribution -- a copy of the Metric Style Guide which was prepared by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

You will also be interested to know that metric education is proceeding apace across North America. According to the March newsletter of the American National Metric Council, most of the Departments of Education have declared a preference for the SI system. The I. C. M. E. recommendations for the 're' spelling of 'metre' and 'litre' have also received wide support, so cheer up; we are not so odd after all!

There are a number of interesting metric materials on the market. Some you may want to see are:

Bates, W. W. and Olive Fullerton, How To Think Metric.
Copp Clark.

Black, Gerald, Canada Goes Metric. Doubleday.

Hallamore, Elizabeth, The Metric Book of Amusing Things To Do. Greey de Pencier and Scholar's Choice.

Travel Metric Game by Dr. Will Reese, Department of
Elementary Education, University of Alberta.

Many more such materials will undoubtedly cross our desks in the future and we hope to keep you informed of these.

Mathematics

«» Curriculum Development, Grades 1 - 12

Curriculum development in mathematics will continue during the coming year, with members of the Mathematics Curriculum Policy Committee carrying the major responsibility for planning the total program for grades 1 - 12. Ad hoc curriculum committees set up by the Curriculum Branch on the advice of the policy committee are assigned developmental tasks in particular grades. For your information, policy committee members are listed below.

Mr. Wilf Lencuch, Mathematics Consultant, Lethbridge
Regional Office

Chairman

Mr. John B. Percevault, University of Lethbridge,
Faculty of Education

Mrs. Eileen Thurlow, Calgary Public Schools, Supervisor

Mr. Emery Dosdall, Edmonton Public Schools, Supervisor

Mr. Ken Epp, N. A. I. T., Section Head

Mr. Ron Komishke, Stettler, Vice-Principal (A. T. A. Nomination)

Mr. Ken Riva-Cambrin, Edmonton Separate Schools (A. T. A. Nomination)

Mr. Don Hinde, Lacombe (A. T. A. Nomination)

Mr. Bill Langlands, Lethbridge Public Schools (A. T. A. Nomination)

Mr. Lorne Pinkoski, Drayton Valley (A. T. A. Nomination)

Mathematics Ad Hoc Committee Chairmen:

Elementary - Mr. Al Anderson, Grande Prairie Regional Office

Junior High - Ms. Carol Armour, Red Deer Regional Office

Senior High - Mr. Jim Jeffrey (Until Sept. 1/75), Edmonton Regional
Office

All of the above committees come under the general supervision of Dr. Les Tolman, Associate Director of Curriculum, Curriculum Branch, Department of Education. (427 - 2982)

Elementary Mathematics

The ad hoc committee has finalized the revision of the tentative mathematics program outline. Basic directions taken in the revision include:

- a. The program will be fully metric (SI) with no conversion to the English system.
- b. Related to (a) will be a change in emphasis in the study of fractions with decimal fractions receiving greater attention.
- c. The appropriateness of studying specific concepts at a particular level has been considered.
- d. Hopefully, the overall program will be reduced to accommodate all students with a success orientation.
- e. A core-optional design is incorporated.
- f. The use of a transformational geometry approach is stressed.

Further developments will be communicated to you through this newsletter. Target date for provincial implementation is September, 1977.

Senior High Mathematics

A new text for Mathematics 15 and Mathematics 25 is being recommended to the Curriculum Board for approval as a text book for these courses commencing in September, 1975. The book, Saake, T. F. and B. Conchie, Mathematics of Consumer Studies, Addison-Wesley, Don Mills, 1975, is a Canadian publication and should provide a basis for a worthwhile and interesting course in mathematics.

Science

«» Science Policy Committee

The Science Policy Committee has spent some time considering proposals regarding pilot programs from the Physics and Chemistry Ad Hoc Committees. (The Physics Ad Hoc Committee is preparing for a pilot program and the Chemistry Ad Hoc Committee is presently conducting three pilot programs.)

The Policy Committee agreed with the Physics Ad Hoc Committee that only SI units should be used in the physics program after September, 1977, which is the date scheduled for the revised program to be available to schools.

The Policy Committee has asked that the materials prepared by the Edmonton Regional Chemistry Council be sent to the teachers who are presently piloting the new programs, to see if this material is compatible with the programs' objectives, or as an alternative, if the materials are suitable for another program which would be set up on the same terms as the three pilot programs.

«» Elementary Science Ad Hoc Committee

The Elementary Science Ad Hoc Committee is grappling with the perplexing problem of identifying a science course that children need and enjoy and teachers enjoy teaching, but also one that does not require more resources than are available. The rather limited resources, i.e. available teacher time, local financial conditions and available classroom space, are the cause of the problem.

However, there are a number of very impressive-looking programs which may fill the bill and there is some basis for optimism that this committee will have a product for examination this fall.



«» Pilot Programs

The junior high teachers who are currently involved in trying various grade eight programs will meet at the University of Alberta on June 5th with the Ad Hoc committee to arrive at some evaluation of the materials being tested. It is too soon to report anything, but the teachers and committee members have really been working hard this year to keep up with the job. They deserve a hearty vote of thanks for the work they have been doing.

The 24 Chemistry pilot teachers have also been pressed to do the task that has been assigned. After some problems due to the mail service last summer, the teachers have really done a tremendous job of trying to field-test both new materials and a new program. They too will meet with the Ad Hoc committee on June 5th at the University of Alberta for an interim evaluation of the materials. The Chemistry 10 and 20 pilots will continue for another year and the Chemistry 30 pilot will be established during the coming term.

The Physics Ad Hoc Committee is preparing material for a meeting with a group of pilot teachers on June 9th at the University of Alberta. These teachers are being asked to try a different approach to the teaching of Physics as well as using new materials. The committee has worked long and hard in the preparation of this program and should be commended for their efforts.

Audio-Visual Services Branch

«» Proposed Second Regional Film Library

A group of superintendents in Northeastern Alberta will soon be holding a meeting to discuss a proposed second regional film library.* The main purpose of this meeting will be to ascertain the willingness of school boards in the proposed area (which includes parts of Zones 2 and 3) to participate in this program.

Also, the Zone 1 regional film library, which was established in January, 1975, will be evaluated in October, 1975.

The Department of Education wishes to establish a base that will allow a second film library to begin operation in early 1976, pending a positive evaluation of the Zone 1 library and approval by the second group of school jurisdictions.

* For more details on the first regional film library, see the January '75 issue of A-V Signpost, page 21.

Miscellaneous

Work Experience

School Districts are encouraged to have the Work Experience application for each of their schools approved by the Department before sending students out to work. Only after the application has the proper signatures does the Workers' Compensation coverage become effective.

Canadian Red Cross Society

Teachers may be interested to learn that one Edmonton Junior High School, D. S. MacKenzie, in cooperation with a community nursing home, is utilizing the Red Cross Volunteer Course as a Group B option course. Upon completion of the course and an examination, Red Cross Youth will issue a card and a Red Cross Youth Volunteer crest for the student's use while working as a Volunteer. This program is designed to help young people become personally involved in activities which require them to think of others and learn how to help where their special talents are needed. For further information, phone Red Cross Youth, 429 - 2671.

